

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9, 11-19, and 36; amend claims 1, 7, 10, 29-30, 32-34, and 37; and add new claims 38-45, all as shown below. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:
providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes such that a content node is created for each of the plurality of content repositories, each content node is associated with its own content schema, a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories, each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes, and each hierarchy node is associated with its own hierarchy schema;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

providing search results;

wherein ~~the VCR includes a common content model and namespace; and wherein~~ each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) ~~compatible with that integrates the corresponding content repository into~~ the VCR and such that ~~the each~~ SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding content repositories.

2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR includes:
searching each of the plurality of content repositories.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

 caching the search results.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:

 extending the content model to ~~include~~ store information about the content model in the plurality of content repositories; and
 ~~wherein the namespace spans the plurality of content repositories.~~

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein:

 the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

 searching one or more of the ~~set of~~ content information nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the ~~set of~~ hierarchy node schemas information.

11-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium for method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising the computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by one or more processors on the computer cause the computer to perform the steps of:

~~including instructions in a code segment to providing~~ for the representation of a the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, wherein providing comprises the substeps of:[:]

implementing by each one of the plurality of content repositories a service provider interface (SPI) to integrate the corresponding content repository into the VCR;

interfacing by the SPI between the VCR and the corresponding content

repository;

creating a content node for each of the plurality of content repositories;

associating each content node with its own schema;

creating a hierarchy node for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories;

associating each hierarchy node with one or more of the plurality of content repositories;

associating each hierarchy node with its own schema;

including instructions in a code segment to searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

including instructions in a code segment to providing search results; and

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein searching the VCR includes further comprising:

including instructions in a code segment to searching each of the plurality of content repositories.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein providing search results includes further comprising:

including instructions in a code segment to combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein providing search results includes further comprising:

including instructions in a code segment to caching the search results.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes further comprising:

~~including instructions in a code segment to extending a the VCR content model to include store information about the content model in the plurality of content repositories; and~~

~~including instructions in a code segment to provide a hierarchical namespace spanning the plurality of content repositories.~~

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein searching the VCR for information includes further comprising:

~~including instructions in a code segment to searching one or more of the set of content information nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the set of hierarchy node schemas information.~~

38. (New) A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, wherein providing comprises the substeps of:

implementing by each one of the plurality of content repositories a service provider interface (SPI) to integrate the corresponding content repository into the VCR;

interfacing by the SPI between the VCR and the corresponding content repository;

creating a content node for each of the plurality of content repositories;

associating each content node with its own schema;

creating a hierarchy node for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories;

associating each hierarchy node with one or more of the plurality of content repositories;

associating each hierarchy node with its own schema;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression; and
providing search results.

39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein searching the VCR includes:

searching each of the plurality of content repositories.

40. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

41. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

42. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein providing search results includes:

caching the search results.

43. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:

extending a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.

45. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas.